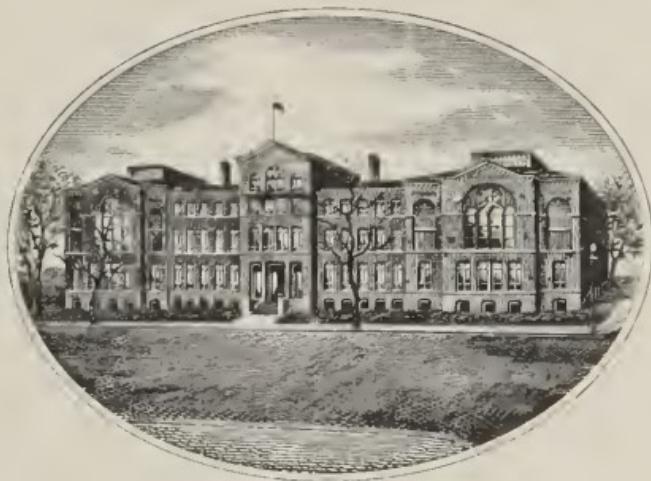




NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
Washington



Founded 1836

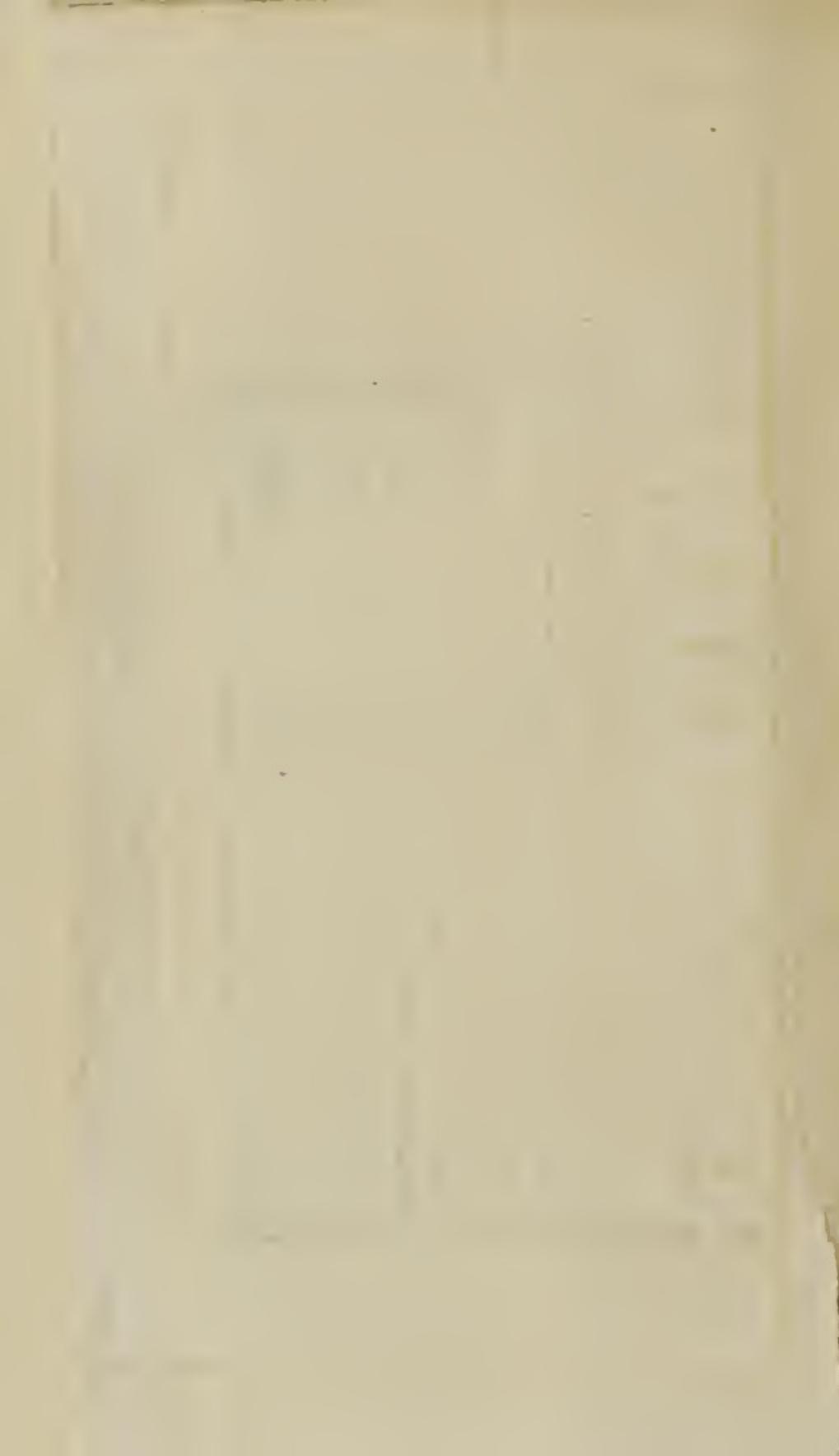
U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Public Health Service

**OBITUARY FOR CHARLESTON,
As reported by the City-Marshall, from the different Cemeteries.**

Year	WHITES.		BLACKS.		Total.	Of which were imported Africans.
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
1803	156	72	146	130	504	
1804	416	130	426	325	1297	187
1805	295	118	455	288	1156	268
1806	246	126	584	336	1292	523
1807	436	157	989	621	2203	1112
						15676

MONTHLY OBITUARY.

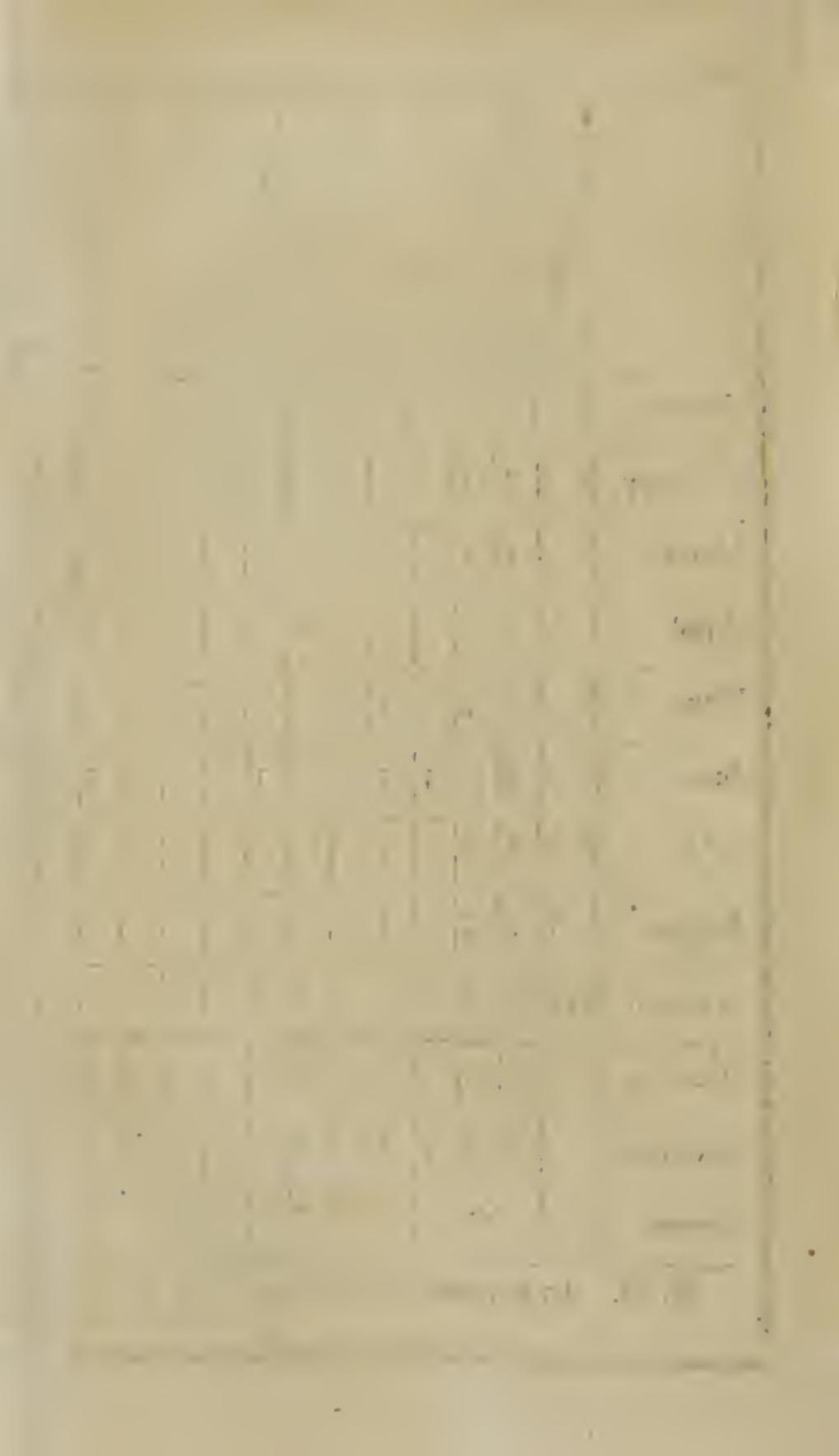
Year	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total	Under 1	1 year. to 5.	1 year. to 5.	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 to 1297																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
Under 1	1 year. to 5.	1 year. to 5.	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 75	75 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 to 1297																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
1803	94	52	29	34	30	39	40	41	42	43	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	7010	7011	7012	7013	7014	7015	7016	7017	7018	7019	7020	7021	7022	7023	7024	7025	7026	7027	7028	7029	7030	7031	7032	7033	7034	7035	7036	7037	7038	7039	7040	7041	7042	7043	7044	7045	7046	7047	7048	7049	7050	7051	7052	7053	7054	7055	7056	7057	7058	7059	7060	7061	7062	7063	7064	7065	7066	7067	7068	7069	7070	7071	7072	7073	7074	7075	7076	7077	7078	7079	7080	7081	7082	7083	7084	7085	7086	7087	7088	7089	7090	7091	7092	7093	7094	7095	7096	7097	7098	7099	70100	70101	70102	70103	70104	70105	70106	70107	70108	70109	70110	70111	70112	70113	70114	70115	70116	70117	70118	70119	70120	70121	70122	70123	70124	70125	70126	70127	70128	70129	70130	70131	70132	70133	70134	70135	70136	70137	70138	70139	70140	70141	70142	70143	70144	70145	70146	70147	70148	70149	70150	70151	70152	70153	70154	70155	70156	70157	70158	70159	70160	70161	70162	70163	70164	70165	70166	70167	70168	70169	70170	70171	70172	70173	70174	70175	70176	70177	70178	70179	70180	70181	70182	70183	70184	70185	70186	70187	70188	70189	70190	70191	70192	70193	70194	70195	70196	70197	70198	70199	70200	70201	70202	70203	70204	70205	70206	70207	70208	70209	70210	70211	70212	70213	70214	70215	70216	70217	70218	70219	70220	70221	70222	70223	70224	70225	70226	70227	70228	70229	70230	70231	70232	70233	70234	70235	70236	70237	70238	70239	70240	70241	70242	70243	70244	70245	70246	70247	70248	70249	70250	70251	70252	70253	70254	70255	70256	70257	70258	70259	70260	70261	70262	70263	70264	70265	70266	70267	70268	70269	70270	70271	70272	70273	70274	70275	70276	70277	70278	70279	70280	70281	70282	70283	70284	70285	70286	70287	70288	70289	70290	70291	70292	70293	70294	70295	70296	70297	70298	70299	70300	70301	70302	70303	70304	70305	70306	70307	70308	70309	70310	70311	70312	70313	70314	70315	70316	70317	70318	70319	70320	70321	70322	70323	70324	70325	70326	70327	70328	70329	70330	70331	70332	70333	70334	70335	70336	70337	70338	70339	70340	70341	70342	70343	70344	70345	70346	70347	70348	70349	70350	70351	70352	70353	70354	70355	70356	70357	70358	70359	70360	70361	70362	70363	70364	70365	70366	70367	70368	70369	70370	70371	70372	70373	70374	70375	70376	70377	70378	70379	70380	70381	70382	70383	70384	70385	70386	70387	70388	70389	70390	70391	70392	70393	70394	70395	70396	70397	70398	70399	70400	70401	70402	70403	70404	70405	70406	70407	70408	70409	70410	70411	70412	70413	70414	70415	70416	70417	70418	70419	70420	70421	70422	70423	70424	70425	70426	70427	70428	70429	70430	70431	70432	70433	70434	70435	70436	70437	70438	70439	70440	70441	70442	70443	70444	70445	70446	70447	70448	70449	70450	70451	70452	70453	70454	70455	70456	70457	70458	70459	70460	70461	70462	70463	70464	70465	70466	70467	70468	70469	70470	70471	70472	70473	70474	70475	70476	70477	70478	70479	70480	70481	70482	70483	70484	70485	70486	70487	70488	70489	70490	70491	70492	70493	70494	70495	70496	70497	70498	70499	70500	70501	70502	70503	70504	70505	70506	70507	70508	70509	70



1807

	Endemic Causus:														
Bilious Remit. Fever															
Intermitting Fever.															
Typhus.															
Small Pox.															
Pleurit. vera.	1														
Influenza.															
Cynanche Trach.															
Angina Pectoris.															
Whooping Cough.															
Scarificaria Anginosa															
Catharr.															
Dysentery.															
Pneumonia.															
Diarrhœa.															
Diarrhœa Infant.															
Worms.															
Hæmoptoe.															
Dropsy.															
Hæpatitis.															
Dispsisia.															
Hysteria.															
Dysuria.															
Tetanus.															
Trismus Nas.															
Epilepsy.															
Apoplexy.															
Rheumatism.															
Scrofula.															
Herpes.															
Average heat.															
Fall of Rain.															
Prevailing Winds.															

N. B. In September about one third of my Patients were those of the Dispensary, the number here set down must be considered in that proportion more than my own.



AN
ORATION,
DELIVERED BEFORE
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF
SOUTH-CAROLINA,

AT THEIR ANNIVERSARY MEETING,

Dec. 24th, 1807.

AND
PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST.

BY JOSEPH JOHNSON, M. D.

President of the Medical Society of South-Carolina

CHARLESTON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED

BY MARCHANT, WILLINGTON AND CO.
NO. 143, BROAD-STREET, NEAR THE EXCHANGE.



ORATION, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

THE diseases prevalent in this city, since the year 1792, being generally the same, and their symptoms varying but little in each succeeding year, since that period, few or no remarks, which to you may appear novel or interesting, can be expected in their history. A sense of duty to our successors in practice, and to the laws of our society, have urged me to this undertaking; with a reliance, that my endeavours to complete a view of the changes in the weather, and of the diseases to which we are exposed, will meet with your indulgence.

THE present year set in with the most uniform cold weather that has been known since the commencement of our journal, in the year 1793. Occasional showers alone

prevented the occurrence of ice, on every night in January, except the last. The thermometer, though not so low at any time as in February, stood at a much lower average, having, until the last day of the month, ranged at thirty-three degrees, and, including the heat of the last day, averaged at thirty-six degrees. On the eighteenth there was a fall of snow. The winds prevailed twenty-two days from the northern, and nine from the eastern points of the compass. Throughout the continent the severity of the cold was, in proportion; in Boston the thermometer (probably in an exposed situation) fell to 0, and in Portsmouth to eight degrees below 0.

ALTHOUGH the coldest day, in this, or any other year, since 1796, occurred in February, the average of the thermometer was twelve and three quarter degrees higher than in the preceding month; on the seventh, sheltered from the weather, it stood at twenty-four degrees, and when exposed fell to sixteen degrees.

THE changes in February and March were very great and sudden; on the sixth the thermometer fell thirty-two degrees in seventeen hours, as appears by our diary, and had, probably, been lower, but again risen at eight o'clock in the morning, the usual hour of observation. On the tenth it had increased twenty-seven degrees in thirty-one hours, and many other changes, of fifteen to twenty-four degrees, are observed in short periods during these months. Snow fell two hours and an half, on the third of February, and on the thirteenth there was smart thunder. The thermometer fluctuated from twenty-four to sixty-nine degrees. Seven inches and three tenths of rain fell in this month, and six inches and six and an half tenths in March. The country was overflowed, and the roads, for a time; were impassable to carriages.

THE spring was unusually cold and backward; as late as the third of May there was a frost; so that, the remark of **GOLDSMITH**, respecting the climate of the Alps,

was applicable to ours, in this extraordinary season;—it was

“ Winter lingering in the lap of May.”

The plantations and gardens were much injured by this weather, and in a way, as extraordinary as the cause. The young crops having been repeatedly destroyed by frost, they were replaced with great industry, and when the planter thought the danger past, his prospects were blasted by myriads of caterpillars, which, like the locusts of Egypt, destroyed alike the whole vegetable world... The *chenille* had been repeatedly observed in cool seasons; but, now, a species, which, to the astonished planter appeared a new creation, not only destroyed the cotton, corn and rice, but swept even the grass from the meadows, that scarcely a vestage remained.

THE spring having been so backward, the accession of summer was as rapid in proportion, and the eleventh of June was one of the hottest days to which our climate is subject; the thermometer standing at ninety-two degrees, in a very cool situation, and at nine.

ty-four, generally, through the city. The average heat of July was eighty-six degrees; a range considerably higher than had been observed since 1796; and somewhat exceeding the great heat of that year. From the twenty-sixth of July to the eighteenth of August there had been but one shower; the heat being steady and considerable, the *Endemic Causus* commenced about the latter date, and was aggravated by the extremely hot weather, from the first to the fifth of September, when the thermometer, at noon, in the coolest situation, varied from ninety degrees to ninety-two and an half. September was, from sickness and death, the blackest month ever recorded in Charleston, there having been three hundred and twenty-eight interments; of which one hundred and fourteen were from *Endemic Causus*; and at least one fourth of the inhabitants were affected with the *Influenza* about the last of the month. From the second of October to the fifth of November, there had been no rain, and on the twenty-one days preceding, there had only fallen one tenth and an half. During the first six weeks

of this time, the weather was clear and generally calm, but when the winds did increase, the inhabitants were distressed still more by the clouds of dust which drifted in every direction; the winds, fortunately, prevailed from the east, so that the heat was not oppressive. All the ponds, and many of the wells and springs, were dry, so that in country places many cattle died for want of water, and travellers could not obtain a sufficiency, near the roads, either for themselves or their horses. The atmosphere was hazy and thick, as if filled with a subtle dust, and the sun, as if deprived of its rays, appeared of a fiery redness. On the twentieth of October the weather became cool, and a frost took place within two miles of the city, which, being, occasionally, succeeded by others, the atmosphere was cleared and the effects of the drought not so oppressive in the city. It may, however, be said to continue even at this time, for, from the eleventh of September, to the twenty-first instant, a term of three months and ten days there had only fallen one inch and a half of rain.

tenths of rain; the usual quantity of a smart shower.

DOCTOR CHALMERS describes the distress of the inhabitants, in the year 1752, during a drought of only thirty days; but, then, the thermometer was, occasionally, as high as ninety-seven and ninety-eight degrees, in the shade. As we have never observed our thermometer above ninety-three degrees, it is probable the doctor may have kept his in some situation exposed to reflected heat.

DURING this time the minds of the inhabitants were amused by their speculations on a Comet. It was discovered about the fifteenth of September, and had, probably, been visible several weeks before. On the twenty-ninth of that month, at nine o'clock, in the evening, it was ten degrees south-west of Saturn; and, to the naked eye, appeared somewhat larger than that planet. Its declination was thirty-five minutes south, and its right ascension two hundred and fourteen de-

grees from Aries, which would bring it vertical to fifteen minutes south latitude, and one hundred and seventy-one degrees, forty-five minutes east longitude from London; a spot near a small island in the Pacifick ocean. Its orbit intersected the Ecliptick, in the twenty-eighth degree of Libra, with an inclination of fifty-eight degrees, forty minutes. It moved eastwardly, a little inclining to the north, at the rate of eleven and an half miles an hour.

By many, the dreadful *Influenza* that oppressed them, with all the aggravations of the drought, were ascribed to this Comet... In the days of superstition, such appearances were alarming. As their nature was not understood, if any evils had occurred or were then operating, the Comet was the undoubted cause. If none had existed, man, groping in the dark, and fearful in the gloom of ignorance, would deem the appearance of a Comet ominous of some great, some national calamity. It is true the nature of Comets is far from being well

understood; but their course, distance, extent and velocity, being ascertained, their extreme distance from the Earth, their inconsiderable magnitude as heavenly bodies, and their probable crystalline nature, convince most men, that they have never approached near enough to have an influence, either on the Earth or its atmosphere. If changes, in the health of man, or in the weather, or in the tides, are to be ascribed to planetary influence, causes, infinitely greater than this, have occurred without producing a sensible effect. October the first 1803, six planets, viz: the Sun, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Herschell, were nearly in conjunction; they were within a space of thirty-one degrees. It is said, that the tides rose so high, at that time, as to flow into the cellars on the wharves, although there was no gale. Your diary will explain this occurrence; by it we find that north-east winds prevailed at that time, and had continued, with but two exceptions, from the eleventh of the preceding month. Our uniform experience proves such high tides to be occasioned by

north-east winds retarding the gulf-stream; why, then, should we ascribe this elevation to causes so remote? Again, on the first of September 1805, five planets, viz: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, and Herschell, were within a space of seventeen degrees; no extraordinary occurrence was noticed.... But the advocates for lunar influence will observe, if the health and mind of man, the motion of the tides, and changes in the weather, are affected by the changes in the moon, why may not the conjoined attraction of so many greater planets produce an effect in proportion? Let them establish their position before any inference is drawn.

I will not deny that we are more subject to diseases about the periods of the new and full Moon, but the changes in the weather will fully account for this circumstance. Such changes may also be more frequent at these periods, but they likewise occur at other periods, and are followed by the same diseases. *Mania* and the *Menstrual Flux* cannot be influenced by the Moon,

although they may return at lunar months; for they occur alike at all ages of the Moon. What are the changes of the Moon, that they should be productive of such vast effects? Do they consist in any essential change in the Moon itself? Certainly not: they consist in mere *Moonshine*; in a greater or less degree of borrowed light reflected on the Earth..... Can this slight, this gradual change, be capable of such vast influence?

It may be deemed heretical to question an opinion which has been sanctioned by ages; an opinion first advanced by the Greek writer CLEOMNES, advocated by PLINY, and approved by NEWTON. But with the greatest reverence for these philosophers, I must offer a few of the many objections to their theory, for all physiologists discuss the question. If the Moon had power to raise the tides daily, there would be but one tide in twenty-four hours. They, however, say that the Sun, although not in so great a degree, has likewise the power of attracting or raising the tides. If this were true, the

second tide should always occur about the same hour of the day, as certainly as the Sun arrives at his zenith. Again, if this were true, in the first and last quarters of the Moon, when that planet rises and sets about the same time with the Sun, the only tide that could occur in twenty-four hours, should be in the day, and should be higher than other tides, in proportion to the combined influence of the Sun and Moon.... Modern astronomers introduce centrifugal force to assist them in accounting for these phenomena; although this is much more satisfactory, it cannot account for there being no tides in the Mediterranean and other inland seas. We are the more impressed with this, when we reflect that the smaller body should be most affected by the attracting power, and, that the surrounding shores, by opposing the current, if any, should give the tide a greater elevation.

It may not be doing well, to oppose so respectable a theory, without being able to offer a better; but this was not my object,

I only wished to weaken the general opinion of lunar and planetary influence, that it might not be supposed the health of man is affected thereby, and that we might be the more immediately guarded against the changes in the weather for the preservation of health.

I do not, however, wish to discourage investigations of this kind, because we have not yet discovered the truth. We may approximate, although we do not arrive at certainty, and he who assigns a reason for an operation of nature, and convinces us that a particular effect may proceed from an assigned cause, is entitled to our respect and gratitude. The man who is enterprising and diligent in the study of nature, is like a body luminous and vivifying to the literary world. Let us not cease to hope, that the same effort of reason and observation which developed the mysteries of the planetary system, of electricity, and of the composition of water, may yet unfold the different disiderata in science!

ALTHOUGH the cold weather in the fall commenced at the usual time, and with the usual degree, it afterwards became warm; the thermometer fluctuating from seventy to seventy-five so late as the fifteenth of December, and even now it continues unseasonably warm.

To render a minute detail of the diseases unnecessary, I have prepared a table from my own practice, of the diseases occurring in each month, with a proportional addition of such diseases as are reported in our medical journal, where they had not occurred in my own; of these the instances were few...I submit it for your future inspection.

FROM several circumstances, my practice is small, compared with that of many gentlemen of this society; still, I presume, the table will be found correct, in proportion with the practice of others, as nearly as possible; the casualties and diseases,

which occur alike at all seasons of the year are omitted.

VACCINATION was preserved throughout the year, except from the middle of November to that of December; during which time the natural *Small-Pox* increased, and several physicians reluctantly inoculated. It is now, very happily, revived from a scab of the late stock, about four weeks old; of fifty vaccinations, or more, made from this scab, only one succeeded.

DYSENTERY was much more general and severe than had been known for many years; it was, probably, introduced and kept up by the continued importations of Africans; and this, succeeded by dropsies, carried off great numbers of those wretched people. Among the inhabitants it differed, in one respect, from *Dysentery* in former years, in very few instances were tonick or astringent remedies admissible, at any stage of the disease.

INFLUENZA is noticed as occurring in March and April, although not sanctioned by our journals. My opinion was then supported by the concurrence of several eminent physicians, and has since been confirmed by a correspondence of symptoms with that which prevailed in the fall. On the first of its appearance, in the latter period, the symptoms were so mild that few required the attendance of a physician.... This lulled many into a fatal security ; and when about half the inhabitants had been attacked by it, a cold change took place in the weather, during which many relapsed, and several lost their lives. So general was the prevalence of this disease, about the middle of October, that many families had from fifteen to twenty sick at one time: servants could not be hired to do the duties of a family, nor nurses procured to attend the sick. Relapses were very frequent; in all such cases the symptoms were greatly aggravated, and frequently accompanied by violent determinations to the *Pleura* and *Mediastinum*: However severe the *Influenza*

was in Charleston, it was much more destructive in the interiour country, and along the northern boundary of the state. In Georgetown, eight persons were lying dead of it in one day; and in Allanstown, in North-Carolina, out of nine masters of families, seven are said to have died of this complaint, whole families were sick at the same time; and in a small neighbourhood at Cashaway ferry, nine families of children are likewise said to have been left orphans by this prevailing malady. With persons advanced in years it was most violent; next to these, with persons having irritable lungs; next, with persons left debilitated by previous inflammatory complaints; and, lastly, with pregnant women: in these, miscarriage was a frequent consequence..... Bleeding and other evacuants, with emolient drinks were the only remedies necessary at the first, but frequent blisters were afterwards requisite. In the country places above mentioned, bleeding is said to have been injurious, and probably was so; the difficulties attending country practice render

it impossible for so active a remedy to be always seasonably applied.

ON the subject of *Yellow Fever*, I regret having nothing new to offer, towards the cure of the disease. The symptoms varied from those of former years in a greater disposition to *Typhus*, so that bark and other tonicks, formerly rejected in every stage, were now kindly received, and, frequently, beneficial; mercury is still the favourite remedy. This dreadful disease having raged in different parts of the United States, ever since the year 1792, still baffles the greatest medical skill. The greatest human strength is prostrated before the pestilential breath of this, as of the lernian hydra; respect is paid to the pride of manhood, or to the loveliness of the weaker sex: vigour, youth and beauty are the chosen victims of its rage. A sympathetick grief pervades the breast of each inhabitant; scarcely a father or a brother, or a son, whose heart does not throb with apprehension for, who has not too frequently to lament the loss of, some

infant hope, or beloved relative, lately returned from the acquirement of an education, or the completion of urgent business; returned to fan the warmth of his affection, and brighten his hopes, too soon to be blasted by this fell disease.

If all human strength, supported by medical skill, cannot avail against the furious attack of this monster, may not enterprise, conducted by observation and reason prevent its origin. Observation points to the drains and other receptacles of filth, and reservoirs of stagnant water, as the sources of its being. Reason convinces us, that if these receptacles of filth, were daily cleansed of their putrifying contents, so as to prevent exhalation, this hydra could not exist. Enterprise, confirmed by experience, assures us that water may be conducted through our streets, so as not only to remove the fermenting matter from the drains, but answer many other valuable purposes. Let, then, the talents and influence of this society, be exerted to

promote so desirable an object; let a committee of your members be appointed to prove that this dreadful disease originates from these sources, and state the most striking instances of similar results from similar causes; let them prove, that this disease may probably be prevented by frequently cleansing the drains of their impure contents; and recommend the distribution of water through the city by conduits, with a view to this great object. This foe to the prosperity and happiness of Charleston, may thus be vanquished without Herculean aid. Rescued from this fiend, trade and commerce will again flourish in the summer season, and their increase be, at the least, in proportion to the extension of time allotted for these pursuits. Protected from danger, men of wealth, industry and talents will become your inhabitants: nay, you will preserve the many valuable friends who now wish to remove, rather than be exposed, with their families, to such scenes of distress and danger.

THE obituary which I now present for your inspection, will, although very imper-

flect, be, nevertheless, useful. The want of a regular system for affording a correct knowledge of the diseases will now be felt and probably remedied. The number of newly imported Africans swells our bills of mortality to so great an extent, that I congratulate you on the time approaching when that aggravation will cease; they now compose one half of all the deaths in the year. Even the proportion of deaths among themselves has greatly increased; at first a twenty-ninth part of the number imported died; but now a fourteenth of the whole. The diseases and deaths in the year 1803, are only recorded from the first of July, yet this defect affords some light. It proves that a great proportion of deaths from *Tetanus* and *Worms* occurs in the summer months: That *Convulsions*, *Pulmonick Affections*, *Apoplexy*, and *Sore Throats*, are much more fatal in the first part of the year. The proportion of deaths among children is distressing; one fifth, and in some years one fourth of all that are born, die under five years of age. The proportion of such deaths is likewise increased in the summer season, as we observe them rated at nearly

one third in 1803. From inaccuracy in the reports, all deaths from *Diarrhœas* are set down under the head of *Diarrhœa Infantum*; one fifth or one sixth of this number should probably be taken off, and set down under the head *Diarrhœa*. The number of deaths under the head of *Consumption*, including those of *Debility*, amounts to an average of rather less than one sixth; of these it is fair to remark, that many cases are brought to us from the Northern States, on account of the mildness of our climate in the winter season; and it is fondly to be hoped that less attention to fashion, and more to health, in the tender sex, will hereafter greatly decrease the numbers who fall victims to this disease. Although the changes are great and sudden, our climate is certainly more favourable to *Pulmonick Affections*, than that of the eastern and middle states; for even in New-York, from one fourth to one third of all that die, perish by these complaints. Among children, likewise, however unfavourable to them, our climate may be reputed, the number of deaths is one seventh less, in proportion, than in New-York.

Med. Hist.
WZ
270
J673c
1808
c.1

